

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A network-based system for centrally sampling distributed
2 multimedia, the system comprising:
3 a plurality of distributed multimedia source computers;
4 a multimedia warehouse configured to receive and archive multimedia
5 files uploaded from the plurality of distributed multimedia source computers; and
6 at least one multimedia sampling computer configured to download
7 one or more multimedia files archived in the multimedia warehouse and play the
8 downloaded multimedia file(s) in synchronization with a project file.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia warehouse
2 comprises a network server computer system in operable communication with at least
3 one database.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia files are selected
2 from a group consisting of audio files, video files, combined audio and video files
3 and picture files.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the project file is selected from
2 a group consisting of audio files, video files, combined audio and video files and
3 picture files.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one multimedia
2 sampling computer is additionally configured to search the multimedia warehouse for
3 multimedia files that best-match user-defined search criteria.
- 1 6. The system of claim 5 wherein the search criteria comprise file
2 type, file format, composition name, company name, composer name, project name,
3 tempo and description.

1 7. The system of claim 6 wherein tempo is defined by a tap tempo
2 calculator peripheral device operably connected to the at least one multimedia
3 sampling computer.

1 8. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one multimedia
2 sampling computer is additionally configured to edit playback attributes of the
3 downloaded multimedia file(s).

1 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the distributed multimedia
2 source computers, the multimedia warehouse and the multimedia sampling
3 computer(s) are configured to host preview, purchasing, or licensing of multimedia
4 files.

1 10. The system of claim 1 wherein the distributed multimedia
2 source computers, the multimedia warehouse and the multimedia sampling
3 computer(s) are configured to host online communication between users of the
4 multimedia source computers and users of the multimedia sampling computer(s).

1 11. The system of claim 1 wherein the distributed multimedia
2 source computers, the multimedia warehouse and the multimedia sampling
3 computer(s) are configured to monitor version control for multimedia file revisions.

1 12. The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia sampling
2 computer has an e-mail system for inviting selected multimedia source computers to
3 have access to the project file.

1 13. The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia warehouse has
2 a local server that queries a web server and retrieves new multimedia files for the
3 multimedia warehouse, the sampling computer having an application that
4 automatically associates an identified user with the local server, the sampling
5 computer upon recognizing the identified user and determining that the local server
6 is available, selects files from the local server, the sampling computer upon

7 recognizing the identified user and determining that the local server is not available,
8 obtains files from a web server.

1 14. A network-based method for marketing multimedia, the
2 method comprising:
3 receiving multimedia files from a plurality of distributed multimedia
4 providers into an online multimedia warehouse;
5 providing the multimedia files within the online multimedia warehouse
6 to distributed multimedia consumers for download wherein the multimedia consumers
7 sample downloaded multimedia files in synchronization with a project file; and
8 selling or licensing the downloaded multimedia file to the multimedia
9 consumer.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the multimedia files are
2 selected from a group consisting of audio files, video files, combined audio and video
3 files and picture files.

1 16. The method of claim 14 wherein the project file is selected
2 from a group consisting of audio files, video files, combined audio and video files
3 and picture files.

1 17. The method of claim 14 additionally comprising searching the
2 multimedia warehouse for multimedia files that best-match user-defined search
3 criteria.

1 18. The method of claim 14 additionally comprising editing
2 playback attributes of the downloaded multimedia files.

1 19. The method of claim 14 additionally comprising presenting a
2 multimedia consumer's request for a custom multimedia file to a multimedia
3 provider.

1 20. The method of claim 19 additionally comprising accepting or
2 rejecting the multimedia consumer's request for the custom multimedia file.

1 21. The method of claim 14 additionally comprising presenting a
2 multimedia consumer's request for a revision to a multimedia file to a multimedia
3 provider.

1 22. A computer-readable storage medium containing computer
2 executable code for instructing one or more computers to:
3 receive input defining multimedia file search criteria;
4 search one or more databases for multimedia files that best-match the
5 search criteria;
6 present output containing a selectable listing of the multimedia files
7 that best-match the search criteria to a user; and
8 receive user input selecting one or more of the presented multimedia
9 files; and
10 present output playing the selected multimedia file(s) in
11 synchronization with a project file.

1 23. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22 wherein
2 the computer executable code additionally instructs the one or more computers to
3 receive user input selecting one or more multimedia files to purchase or license.

1 24. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22 wherein
2 the computer executable code additionally instructs the one or more computers to edit
3 playback attributes of the selected multimedia file(s).